

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 AID-05 /065 W

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O R 290710Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3884

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT AO MILI

SUBJECT: FNLA STILL IN CAXITO: MPLA BLOWS BRIDGE AND MINES ROAD

1. I SAW HIGH COMMISSIONER GENERAL CARDOSO LATE JULY 28.
HE GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING SITUATION REPORT ON THE FIGHTING IN
ANGOLA.

2. FNLA HAS NOT MOVED SOUTH OF CAXITO. MPLA AND FNLA PROBE
EACH OTHER OCCASIONALLY, BUT NO HEAVY FIGHTING HAS OCCURRED
IN THE PAST DAY OR TWO. FNLA HAS YONLY ABOUT 400 TO 500 TROOPS
IN CAXITO. THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY MEN
FNLA HAS IN THE AREA, BUT THEY ARE STRUNG OUT BETWEEN CAXITO AND
AMBRIZ. THE LARGEST CONCENTRATIONS ARE PROBABLY BIVOUACKED
IN UNDER THE DENSE COVER OF OIL PALM PLANTATIONS.

3. AT CAPIRI, JUST SOUTH OF CAXITO, THE MPLA HAS BLOWN THE BRIDGE
OVER A LARGE IRRIGATION CANAL AND FNLA CANNOT GET ITS VEHICLES
ACROSS. THE ALTERNATE ROUTE ALONG THE COAST THROUGH BARRA DO
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DANDE IS PASSABLE, BUT IT IS A BAD ROAD AND HAS BEEN VERY HEAVILY

MINED BY THE MPLA.

4. IF THE FNLA TRIES TO COME DOWN THE CARMONA/CAXITO ROAD THEY WICZ HAVE TROUBLE AT THE BRIDGE OVER THE DANGE RIVER, WHERE HIGH BLUFFS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ROAD GIVE MPLA A STRONG POSITION.

5. MPLA HAS RETAKEN LUCALA, BETWEEN MALANGE AND SALAZAR AND IS ATTEMPTING TO MOVE NORTH TO SAMBA CAJU ON THE ROAD TO CARMONA.

6. PORTUGUESE AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE HAS TURNED UP VERY LITTLE IN THE PAST DAY OR TWO OTHER THAN VEHICULAR MOVEMENT BETWEEN CAXITO AND AMBRIZ. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER BELIEVES MPLA HAS ADEQUATE STOCKPILES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. HE DOUBTS THAT FMLA CAN MOVE QUICKLY WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF MEN IN THE REGION BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULT LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING THE OFFENSIVE FROM ZAIRE.

7. CARDOSO STILL DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT LUANDA IS IN ANY IMMINENT DANGER, BUT HE IS SO LACKING IN HARD INTELLIGENCE THAT HE CAN MAKE NO FIRM ESTIMATES ON WHEN THE FNLA WILL MOUNT A MAJOR ATTACK.
KILLORAN

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